

Hoover Will Lie In Capitol Rotunda

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J. Edgar Hoover will be the 21st person — and the second man named Hoover — to lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda.

The body of the long-time FBI director will be placed on the same wooden catafalque used in 1865 for Abraham Lincoln the first man to lie in state in the rotunda, and for Sen. Everett M. Dirksen (R-Ill.) in March 1969, the last man so honored.

Six presidents, including Herbert C. Hoover who died in October 1964, have lain in state on the relatively crude catafalque made of boards covered with a black cloth.

Admirers and Many Critics

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By Stanley Karnow
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Admirers as well as many critics of J. Edgar Hoover joined yesterday in portraying the controversial chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation as an American institution and a major contributor to law enforcement in the United States.

Leading the eulogies for Hoover, who was found dead yesterday morning, President Nixon praised his "unparalleled devotion and ability and dedication," and ordered the nation's flags flown at half staff in his honor.

Speaking extemporaneously to White House newsmen, the President described Hoover as "one of my closest personal friends and advisers" for 25 years, adding that all Americans owe him "a great debt for building the FBI into the finest law enforcement organization in the entire world."

In a formal tribute issued

later, the President extolled Hoover as "the symbol and embodiment of the values he cherished most: courage, patriotism, dedication to his country and a granite-like honesty and integrity."

Noting that Hoover had often been the subject of controversy, Mr. Nixon said the FBI director "was never a man to run from a fight."

The President added: "His magnificent contribution . . . will be remembered by the American people long after the petty carpings and vicious criticisms of his detractors are forgotten."

For the most part, however, Hoover's past critics appeared to be muted in their comments on his death.

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who had criticized Hoover and had in turn been depicted by the FBI director as "a spineless jellyfish," added his voice to the tributes.

"I am saddened to hear of

his death," Clark said. "He has been a major figure on the American scene for a long time. He loved this country, and we shall miss him."

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) similarly praised Hoover, saying that "even those who differed with him always had the highest respect for his honesty, integrity and his desire to do what he thought best for the country. He will be missed and remembered."

Conceding that he had criticized the FBI for "going beyond its jurisdiction" to investigate the business dealings, sex habits and personal affairs of prominent Americans, columnist Jack Anderson also extolled Hoover's direction of the FBI in its early days. He said:

"J. Edgar Hoover transformed the FBI from a collection of hacks, misfits and courthouse hangers-on into one of the world's most effective and formidable law

enforcement organizations. Under his reign, not a single FBI man ever tried to fix a case, defraud the taxpayers or sell out his country."

House majority Leader Hale Boggs (D-La.), who in 1971 accused the FBI of tapping the telephones of congressmen and called for Hoover's retirement, led 20 minutes of eulogies when the House of Representatives met at noon yesterday.

"No man has served his nation with greater dedication or productivity," Boggs said. "He leaves a great name."

In contrast to these statements, the head of the American Civil Liberties Union in New York, Melvin Wulf, refrained from issuing a statement on Hoover's death. Said Wulf in a telephone interview: "We have no comment at all."

Meanwhile, President Nixon's eulogy of Hoover was echoed by Vice President Agnew, former U.S. Attorney General John Mitchell, Acting Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and

Eulogize Hoover

other figures in or close to the administration.

Agnew called Hoover "a strong defender of this nation and its free institutions against those who would weaken or destroy it." The Vice President said Hoover's "stature was enhanced" by the enemies he had made—"from the bootleggers of the 20s to the bank robbers of the 30s, to the Nazi black-shirts and saboteurs of the 40s, to the draft card burners and Vietcong flag wavers of the 70s."

According to Agnew, these "enemies" disliked Hoover "for the qualities that endeared him to all other Americans, his total dedication to principle and his complete incorruptibility."

Calling the death of the FBI director "a great tragedy," Mitchell assailed his critics, saying that "anybody who would say anything against J. Edgar Hoover would be maligning him. He didn't deserve it."

Acting Attorney General

Kleindienst described Hoover as "a giant among patriots." He said Hoover was "from time to time the object of misplaced public attack, all of which he bore with the firmness and dignity of greatness."

The Acting Attorney General also hailed Hoover for his lack of political ambition, saying that "he shunned any other office and never permitted the FBI to become the least tainted with political influence from any source."

Joining in the praise of Hoover, Chief Justice Warren Burger said he had constructed the FBI "without impinging on the liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and our traditions."

Sen. James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), who had a close working relationship with Hoover as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said that "no man contributed more to law enforcement and Americanism."